


**The Wilderness Campaign and Beyond:
The Civil War Letters of William Thomas Roszell**

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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William Thomas Roszell, my great grandfather, was a seventeen year old boy when the civil war began. One year later in August of 1862, he joined the Union cause. As a member of the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, he fought in many important battle of the war including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg and Fredericksburg. This paper most closely examines his experiences in the Wilderness Campaign of the Spring of 1864.

In the letters he wrote home, he described several aspects of the civil war experience. He wrote of more than just the combat experiences. He also wrote of life in the army camps, food served to the soldiers, the weather during the war and he constantly asked for letters from home.

Throughout his nearly three years in the Union army, he saw many sights and met many people. He also was wounded twice. The first time, shortly after joining the army, he received a small nick in the arm. In June of 1864, during the assaults on Petersburg, he was seriously wounded. Hit in the leg by a minnie ball, he was out of combat and in the hospital for several months after receiving the wound.

He was furloughed home for two months in the Fall of 1864, but had to return to the army because he had reenlisted. Following his return to the army, he spent most of his time staying or working in various hospitals. He did return to the front lines for a brief time in the Spring of 1865, but still unable to march, he was soon returned to the hospital. In June of 1865, he was discharged from the army. Though anxious to see his family, he took the opportunity of being away from home and having money to do some sightseeing before going home to his family.

The Roszell family can be traced to a time even before the United States was the United States. Charles Roszell was born in Virginia prior to the American Revolution in 1773 and as a child moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky, with his parents. He married in 1801 and he and his wife, Jane, settled in Franklin County, Kentucky.

The Roszell tradition of service to their country began with Charles. He fought in the War of 1812 throughout what is now Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

In 1821, he moved with his family to Decatur County, Indiana where he and his wife raised thirteen children. Among them was John Freeland Roszell who was born in 1803 while his parents still lived in Kentucky. A blacksmith and a farmer, he married Perlina Sullinger Brockman on July 1, 1827. They had eleven children. One of whom was William Thomas Roszell, the next Roszell to serve his country in a time of war.¹

William Thomas Roszell was born on December 3, 1843. He grew up on a farm in Decatur County, Indiana, near Greensburg. All indications are he was the eighth of the eleven children. These children, not all of whom's birth dates are known, are in order of birth: Samuel, Elsie, Nancy, Mary, Elvira, Mahala, James, William, Terrell, Emma and Laura. The eldest, Samuel, died in 1849 en route to California during the gold rush. James also served in the Civil War, but on the Western front.

By the time William Roszell was seventeen years old, the states were no longer united. It was 1861 and the unrest which had simmered for many years between the North and the South had finally erupted into war.²

In September of 1861, the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment was raised from the young men of Decatur County. Roszell was probably not old enough to leave home with the initial group of boys who

went to Indianapolis to join the Union cause. One year later, however, he was old enough. If this is indeed the reason that Roszell joined when he did and not a year earlier, he was one of the few who waited until the legal age to join the Union Army. Boys as young as thirteen were mustered into the service by lying about their ages.³ The actual reason why Roszell waited until he did to join the military is unknown. It may have been a family or personal matter, or he may just have no longer been able to resist the pull of the Union cause and the romance of the war.

Whatever his reason, fifteen months after the events of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, Roszell left the farm apparently without the knowledge or approval of his family. He went to Indianapolis to enlist in the Union Army. Soon, he found himself a member of the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company E.⁴ In his first letter home on August 19, 1862, Roszell wrote:

pap you may all think strange of me going off the way I did but it cant be helped now the thought of telling you all good bye was more then I could stand I stoped out in the woods and took a good cry and an now in good spearts and have not a tear sense. I have now give myself to my God and my cuntry I ask you all to pray that I may be agood and faithful soldier⁵

Not long after joining his regiment, Roszell participated in the Second Battle of Bull Run. About this battle Roszell wrote home in a letter on September 3, 1862:

I suppose you heard of the bull run fight I was in it and was standing by the flag barer when he was killedwe retretd about ahalf miles after we started I went back and got the flag carried it through the woods and formed in line again I was

keen to shoot and give it to liet. Cheesman then Gaven [Colonel James Gavin of the Seventh Indiana] came dowe the line and says some man volinteer to carry that flag there was a man in co. F got to him first I have the onner of picking it up but he has the onner of caring it⁶

Roszell's disappointment in not being able to carry the regimental colors was so great because carrying the flag was a high honor. It was also a dangerous task. Many flag bearers were killed because they were an easy target while carrying the colorful banner. Soldiers identified a sense of honor with their flag because often the flags were made by women of the regiment's home area and presented to the regiment before they left for the front. In elaborate ceremonies, the men of the regiment promised never to disgrace the flag or allow it to fall into enemy hands.⁷

In September, Roszell served at Antietam. After the Army of the Potomac moved south following the Maryland Campaign, the Seventh Indiana took part in the Battle of Fredericksburg.⁸

As 1863 began, Roszell participated in Burnside's ill-fated "Mud March." Roszell wrote of this campaign in a letter home on January 26, 1863:

After a hard and tedious march we are back to the old camp we marched three days and two of them through mud and watter from ancle to half leg deep. It commenced raining about dark the first night and keep it up from that on the secon day every thing was wringing wet even the hide the water run under me and wet through an oil clouth two over coats and a blanket and three blankets on top. the left grand Div. of the army of the powtomac got stuck in the mud. wagons there was no end to them that was stuck and every peace of artillery had eight and ten horses to it and the pontoons couldent be halled atall. there was a detale of athousand men to get the stalled wagons back. (the rebels had a bord stuck up with big letters on it. Gen.

Burnsides army stuck in the mud) . . . I didnt see but it was said to be fact. there was a great deal of cursing done on that trip⁹

This march was a low point in the moral of the Army of the Potomac. Unable to take the Confederate position at Fredericksburg by a frontal assault, Burnside decided he would flank around Lee. The men were not able to build fires due to the rain and therefore had no food or coffee on the march. As Burnside realized the frustration his men had encountered trying to get the pontoons and guns through the mud, he ordered whiskey issued to all troops. Receiving the alcohol on empty stomachs, soon many of the men were drunk and fighting among themselves. This scene was very amusing to the Rebels who were watching from across the Rappahannock River. Even though Burnside was as determined as ever that the march would go on, by noon of the second day he, too, realized the hopelessness of the situation. The march was called off and most of the men returned to the old camp. However, some men deserted the army at this time and many who returned to camp were ill. This fiasco led Burnside to submit his resignation. Lincoln accepted it and appointed Joe Hooker to replace him as Commander of the Army of the Potomac.¹⁰

In May of that year, Roszell served at the Battle of Chancellorsville. The Army of the Potomac then moved north into Pennsylvania where Roszell and his regiment took part in the Battle of Gettysburg in early July.¹¹ About this massive battle Roszell recalled in a letter home on July 8, 1863:

our regt. was not with the brigade on the first days fight in which it sufferd a great deal. our regt. was luckey only the left wing was in gageds Tom Watson was kild one in Company H was kild is all that was kild severl wounded I and about ten others volinteered to picket one night and skirmish next day. we had a

warm time for a while we run with in a hundred yards of a regt. that was concealed behind a fence. They raised the yel and come on a charge but the cannonears dropped ashel wright clost [a shell right close] and they dropped down and we reloaded and got back near the brest work behind rocks and held our posich. . . . the boys are all well and in good spirits there is a good many of then bare footed 12

After returning south to Virginia, the Seventh Indiana served throughout that state, but saw little fighting action until Ulysses S. Grant took control of the Army of the Potomac. That campaign in the Spring of 1864 began with the battle of the Wilderness and ended for Roszell five weeks later when he was wounded at Petersburg.¹³

Throughout all of the fighting and all of the quiet times Roszell never forgot about home. He often wrote letters to his parents and siblings. A favorite correspondent seemed to be his youngest sister, Laura, whom he constantly encouraged to learn how to write so that she could write back to him. Older sisters Bye and Hala were trusted with the more graphic details of war.¹⁴

Roszell's father took care of the money that he sent home. The younger Roszell sent home every dollar that he did not absolutely need because he feared that it would be stolen in camp. In an August 18, 1863, letter, Roszell wrote about the thefts that occur in camp:

As we are encamped on the banks of the Raphannock river and it is a great place for swimming and a greater place for stealing witch makes me more anxiours to send my money home then I was. yesterday there was severl of the boys lost all there money. one fellow had a watch worth \$15 dollars and his pocket book in the same pocket and his money was taken out and the watch and the pocket book left. one of company D boys had his pocket cut and his money taken out this is what looks me in the face for when I went to the river I left my money with some one here so

there was no danger of loosing it¹⁵

Almost no regiment was safe from such activity. With so many men living close to one another and so few personal possessions among them, the rise of theft is not surprising. If the culprits were caught, they were usually punished in a way that let everyone know they were a thief. Punishments included being paraded about camp in a barrel or wearing a sign saying "thief." Others were forced to forfeit pay and some were even dismissed from the military and sentenced to hard labor.¹⁶ The fate of the thieves who were among the ranks of the Army of the Potomac in August of 1863 is not known.

In the fall of 1863, Roszell was faced with a choice. Should he reenlist? The decision to reenlist was a difficult one. Initially, reenlistment was not something Roszell felt compelled to do, at least not in the infantry. He longed to be in the more prestigious cavalry. In November of 1863, in light of the fact that he had recently been informed that all recruits would have to stay out their time and therefore he would have to serve another year after the Seventh Indiana was discharged. he viewed reenlistment as such:

for my pars I like Soldiering better then I expected and believing it my duty I am willing to stay. you musent be surprised when I say that I voluntuard a while back for three years longer amoste all the regt was going into the vetern corps but it has fel through with [me] by some means or reather. I think if I get and oppertunity of going into calvery or Artillery I will reenlist for three years. for the napsack I get tired of lugging and eight days rasions besides. . . .¹⁷

One month later, however, he did reenlist and it was not in the cavalry or artillery, but once again in the infantry. Ulterior motives seemed to play an important role in the decision. Factors such as a visit to camp by a colonel from Indiana, the possibility of going home for a while and simple peer pressure may have contributed to Roszell decision and the decisions of many other recruits. In December of 1863, he wrote:

Col. Denneas from Ind. arrived here to day and made a few brief remarks concerning the reenlistment of the veterans. as I havent time to mention any of his remarks. I will just say that I have reenlisted and think there is a probability of the regt. coming home if three quarters of it reenlists or if that much of a company reenlists the company goes or if not the individuals that reenlists goes home for thirty day. recruiting is progressing fast 18

These incentives, offered by the Federal government, to persuade Union soldiers to reenlist were common by late 1863 and early 1864. Unlike the Confederate government which gave its military personnel no choice in whether to reenlist or not, after they served their three years, Federal soldiers were free to go home. Therefore bounties and furloughs were offered in order to spur reenlistment and prevent the Union Army from losing half of its men. In addition, these volunteers had the honor of wearing a special chevron on their sleeves which denoted their veteran status. The three year enlistments of many of the Union soldiers would expire in late 1864 and at this crucial time in the conflict with Grant beginning his tenure as General in Chief the Northern Army could not afford to lose its most effective soldiers, the veterans.¹⁹

Roszell reenlisted. But soon his hopes that that act would send him home to

see his family were ended. By January 1, 1864, he was committed to the Union Army for three more years, but the possibility of seeing Indiana again was no closer than before:

Well I suppose ear this reaches you you will hear that the veteren araingements has played out or reather we was defeated in not geting a enough men to reenlist to take the regt. home. therefore to thinke of going home is useless²⁰

By this time the Army of the Potomac was camped at Culpeper, Virginia, for the winter. The long wait for spring to come and the new campaign to commence left a lot of time for thinking about one's condition. Also on January 1, Roszell wrote "I never should have come in to the infantry Service but went in to the cavalry" ²¹

Roszell's feelings toward the cavalry were unusual in one respect. He did not exhibit the dislike for the cavalry men that most infantry men felt. Generally, the infantry saw cavalry men as playboys who rode about the countryside while the infantry was left to do the dirty work. This did not, however, keep many from sharing Roszell's feelings as well. They longed to be in the cavalry for the reason they jeered at the cavalry; so they did not have to fight it out in the mud and carry all of their provisions on foot.²²

Shortly before the spring campaign began, Roszell received some news. He was going home with his regiment after all. On February 13, 1864, he wrote:

Last night the Capt. come to my tent and told me that he was told that all recruits that come out when I did would be discharged with the regt. and that would be just 7 months from to day and I could write home to my wife and tell her to take good care of the mare that is with fold and to have the bottom

field put in corn for I would be at home next sept. to gather it
and veris other joks was passed to tedious to mesion²³

Roszell also worried about his aging father's ability to do all of the farm work alone. He even suggested that his father consider getting some help. In a February 13, 1864, letter Roszell considered how he could aid his father in getting some farm help:

Niger boys are very scarce here except the ones employed by Uncle Sams Agents. and more then that I dont fancy the niger very much and dont think that pap would very long unless he would get an uncomen good one. but if I should knidnap one I dont know wheather I could send him home or not²⁴

In April of the same year, still concerned about his father, he wrote: "I am very sorrow to hear that pap had no more help than he has to tend to the farm. I wish he could get that niger I spoke of heretofore."²⁵

Roszell's attitude toward blacks seems to be typical of Union soldiers. The idea that Union soldiers saw the emancipation of the slaves as a good idea is wrong. In fact most Union soldiers, especially those from border states, entered the Union Army with prejudice toward blacks. Some Union men disliked the idea of fighting for black freedom so much that they would desert the army rather than fight for the freedom of slaves. Though their degrees of disdain for blacks varied, the prevailing attitude among the Union soldiers seemed to be that blacks were lazy and inferior to whites. For some, the blacks became a reminder of the long, unpleasant affair that the war had become for many Northern veterans. Their use as a cheap labor source, however, gave them one redeeming value in the eyes of some Federals. For that reason, Roszell was not the first to consider sending an ex-slave home

to be a servant. Though Roszell decided against it, several Yankees actually did send blacks home.²⁶

When the Army was not marching or fighting, there was a little time for recreation. In the Spring of 1864, one activity in particular seemed to be a favorite of the Army of the Potomac. It was the game of baseball, which was then only in its infancy as America's pastime. Roszell wrote of his introduction to the game:

if I mistake not I told you some time ago that battery L. chalinged our Regt. for a game of ball Capt. Brient excepted the chalenge and the game was plade to day our boys beat them badly 19 taleys to 6 and skunked them 6 times [in six innings the other team did not score] our boys never seen the game played till last winter the 7th N.Y. introdised the game they call bast ball and this spring we have beat them at their own game . .
..²⁷

The rules of the game were also quite different from today's game. The ball used was soft, probably because in order for a runner to be out he had to be hit with the ball thrown by the pitcher. Scores were usually quite high. Those such as Roszell mentioned, nineteen to six, were not uncommon.²⁸

The waiting and recreation ended for the Army of the Potomac in the Spring of 1864 when Grant was appointed General in Chief of the Union Armies. President Lincoln had been thrilled with Grant's victories at Vicksburg and Chattanooga. Congress even revived the rank of Lieutenant General, a title which had only been held previously by George Washington, and gave that also to Grant. Lincoln hoped that Grant's promotion would spark the Eastern Union armies which had made little progress. As Commander and Chief of the Union Armies Grant's job would be to coordinate all fronts and bring decisive victories as he had in the West. This

new title brought with it a desk job. Grant had no intention, however, of staying in Washington. Instead, he made his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac where he served as the army's strategic field commander. General George Meade, who was the Commander of the Army of the Potomac at the time of Grant's arrival, served under Grant as that army's tactical commander.²⁹

Grant's assumption of his new title and decision to make his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac seemed to be well received by the men of that army. Roszell wrote on April 2, 1864:

you will see by the heading of my letter that we are at the same camp that we were at the last I wrote home but I suffice to say as soon as the roads settles the spring Campaign will commence then we will have plenty to do as we have the hero of Vicksburg and the Champion of the west to Command us. we was reviewed the other day by Leuit. Gen. Grant accompanied by Mead³⁰

Upon assuming his new position, Grant made several changes to streamline the military's operations. He sought to eliminate all waste of manpower and resources. He redirected planned campaigns in the West, planned new campaigns in the East which involved all available men and attempted to separate politics and military advancement. Prior to Grant's arrival many military personnel had attempted to advance in the military ranks through favors from their home state politicians. Grant ended this practice.³¹

Grant also met with President Lincoln. He explained his campaign plans to Lincoln who concurred with Grant's strategy. Grant listened respectfully as Lincoln made a few more suggestions, but later dismissed the

President's remarks when directing the campaign. This probably came as no surprise to President Lincoln who admitted having little knowledge about the movement of troops and a reluctance to interfere with military commanders.³²

Grant's campaign was massive in size but simple in strategy. He planned to advance directly toward Lee's army and engage it in battle until it was destroyed or surrendered. Grant planned to begin his campaign with a flank to Lee's right. This, he believed, would aid the Union's attempt to cut off Lee's communication with the Confederate capital of Richmond. It would also make resupply of Federal troops easier and force Lee to fight on unfavorable terrain or flee into the mountains, bringing certain end to the Confederate military hopes.³³

In accordance with his coordination of all military fronts, Grant also ordered the other eastern Union armies into action. Major General Franz Sigel, whose 26,000 men had been primarily protecting Union held railroads in Maryland and West Virginia, was ordered to move south into the Shenandoah Valley to prevent Lee from being resupplied from that direction. Major General Benjamin Butler, whose army was concentrated on the Virginia Peninsula was instructed by Grant that his objective was to be Richmond. He was to move to a position just south of Petersburg and when that position was secure he was to join Meade's army at his first convenience. Together these armies would form a giant pincer to crush Richmond. Neither the campaigns of Butler nor Sigel were carried out as Grant had planned. Sigel failure to cut Lee's supply lines led to his removal from command by Lincoln on May 21. Only Butler's political influence saved him from the same fate. The failure of these auxiliary campaigns soon led

Grant to realize that the Army of the Potomac alone would have to accomplish the task at hand.³⁴

The many months of waiting for the Army of the Potomac ended in the early morning hours of May 4. The Union corps began crossing the Rapidan River, knowing that they would soon be engaged in a major battle. Among the corps crossing the Rapidan that morning was the Fifth, commanded by General Gouverneur Kemble Warren. Somewhere in that corps was a regiment of young Indiana farm boys known as the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. One of its members was William Thomas Roszell. In a letter home dated May 15, Roszell recalls leaving camp: "we left our camp near Culpeper the night of the 3rd sense then we had three nights rest which was the 1:(&)3 and last night [May 4th, 6th and 14th]³⁵

Around 7 a.m. on May 5, the southward advancing Federals made first contact with northward moving Confederates. The Battle of the Wilderness would soon be underway and the first corps ordered to attack was Warren's fifth. For the next two days, the opposing sides battled back and forth in the thick growth near Wilderness Tavern. The North successfully defended all intersections of the Orange Turnpike, Orange Plank Road and Brock Road. As with every similar battle before it, Union troops predicted that their next orders would be a retreat. With Grant in command, however, this would not be the case and the Federals were every glad to hear that all of the carnage they had witnessed in the previous forty-eight hours would not be in vain.³⁶

There were many casualties. Approximately 17,000 Union soldiers and 11,000 Confederates were wounded or killed in the Wilderness. These numbers accounted for nearly seventeen percent of each

army.³⁷ Almost no regiment escaped without loss. Roszell wrote on May 12 while camped "some place in Va. unknown to [him]" about the campaign so far:

By the help of God I have come through dangers innumerable and feeling that he is my help and protector I dont fear what is to come. Our Capt. was killed in the first days fight second days A. L. Vourise fourght days Segt. Young kild. Tom Morgingon and P. L. Hamelton hasent been heard of sense the first day suposed they are taken prisners³⁸

Indeed, Roszell was right about Peter L. Hamilton. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates and died in Andersonville Prison on September 6, 1864. The captian to whom Roszell referred was George P. Clayton who died in the Wilderness on May 5. James W. Young, the Sergeant, died at Laurel Hill on May 8.³⁹

By the time Roszell write those words, he had already seen action in the second great battle of the campaign as well. The Battle of Spotsylvania began as both sides sought control of Spotsylvania Courthouse. Grant had ordered his men south in an attempt to cut off Lee's communication with Richmond. Lee, anticipating Grant's move, also sent Confederate troops to defend to location. The Southern soldiers narrowly won the race to Spotsylvania Courthouse. The subsequent arrival of the first Federal troops triggered the first shots in what would become more than a week long engagement of Northern and Southern men.⁴⁰

Getting to the battlefield was not as simple as it should have been. A mix up in orders sent to corps commanders led to a traffic jam on the roads leading to Spotsylvania Courthouse. Too many men trying to get to one place

on too few roads while surrounded by burning forests led to congestion. As the men, exhausted from the previous days battle, stopped to wait for the roads to clear many fell asleep. This further delayed the army's movement. Union cavalry, more agile than the foot soldiers, had arrived at Spotsylvania Courthouse on time and engaged the Rebels.⁴¹

As more of the Union troops began to arrive, the battle started to take on a more grandiose scale. Roszell's regiment was one of these later arrivals. He wrote on May 15:

we are now laying under cover of our breast works Near Spotsylvania Court House with our skirmishers one line of battle in our front . . . so far this has been the hardest one [campaign] the army of the Potomac has ever experienced night before last we marched about 7 miles through rain & mud from half leg to knee deep⁴²

Some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the war and certainly of this campaign took place along the Confederate entrenchments around Spotsylvania Courthouse. This line of defense became known as the "mule shoe" because of its shape.⁴³

On the afternoon of May 10, Grant ordered two assaults on the Confederate trenches. While the first was unsuccessful, the second broke Southern lines. However, without proper support and reinforcements by the Union, the Confederates were able to drive the North back again.⁴⁴

In the early morning hours of May 12, Grant launched an all out assault against the tip of the Southern line of defense. Hannock's Second Corps had initial success in over running the Confederate trenches. Excited about their success to the point of disorganization, the Union men were driven back to

the first line of trenches nearly as quickly as they had first advanced over them. The Federals were successful in defending this position and were not driven back any further.⁴⁵

A few hundred yards away, another Union Corps, the Sixth, was advancing on the Confederate trenches. This area became known as "Bloody Angle" because each side suffered approximately 7,000 casualties in less than twenty-four hours. The endless hours of battling in the rain at this position has been labeled some of the most savage combat of the war.⁴⁶

It was not only at "Bloody Angle" where savage fighting occurred, however. Somewhere along the lines of opposing Northern and Southern soldiers was the Seventh Indiana and William Thomas Roszell who apparently saw some heavy fighting of his own:

the night of the 11th we laid siege on a fort with musketry our men had possession of their breast work nearly to the fort and we fought by reliefs they could not stick their heads above the wall without getting killed we kept up a constant firing all the time for a day and night and the morning of the 12 they surrendered what was left of them about sixty and two pieces of Artillery. our regiment was engaged about six hours. I think I shot something near 300 cartridges. the regiment was supposed to have fired between 8 and 10000 rounds you can think what you please but I thought it was pretty hot work we are not about 30 miles from Richmond and can see the rebels camps and their fortifications all is quiet this morning along the lines⁴⁷

Following the fighting of the 12th, there were no more major engagements on the Spotsylvania battlefield. This was probably aided by the retreat of the Confederates at around midnight on the 12th to a newly completed line one mile behind their original entrenchments. The week of

maneuvering, however, did spark enough fighting to raise total casualty counts at the end of the Spotsylvania engagement to approximately 10,000 Union and 10,000 Confederate men who were killed, wounded or captured.⁴⁸

Adding to these discouraging figures, once again the Virginia weather had turned bad, hindering the success of either side. Also in the May 15 letter, Roszell wrote about the recent weather conditions: "we have had nice weather here till the 10th sense then has been raining of and on ever sense some very hard showers which made the roads as bad or worse if possible than is was on the Burn Sides march."⁴⁹

If these circumstances discouraged anyone, it was not Grant. On May 11, Grant sent a dispatch to Washington vowing his commitment to the campaign. In a well-publicized phrase, Grant promised to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."⁵⁰

This assertion by Grant, of course, was made on the basis of one major assumption. He assumed that Butler and Siegel were doing their jobs in cutting Lee's supply lines and limiting his ability to get reinforcements. Under such circumstances, Lee would probably have been unable to move. Due to the failure of Butler and Siegel campaigns, Lee had been reinforced and had received supplies. Grant, therefore, believed it would be easy to sidestep Lee's partially disabled force and put himself and the Army of the Potomac between the Army of Northern Virginia and Richmond. A well supplied and reinforced Lee, however, countered Grant's movement on the night of May 20 with a more direct southward movement than Grant's wide, flanking move.

The Northern and Southern armies next came face to face across the North

Anna River. By the time the Army of the Potomac arrived at the North Anna on May 23, the Confederates had already constructed a good line of defense on the south bank of the river. After careful analysis of the situation, Grant chose not to attack the Rebel position. It was simply a too well chosen and fortified position for Grant to justify an assault.⁵¹

Not surprisingly, however, Grant chose to continue the campaign of the Union Army with a move to Lee's right. On May 27, the first of the Army of the Potomac crossed the Pamunkey River, but found it necessary to stall there for two days in order for the entire train of Federal men and supply wagons to cross the river before continuing south. While the Union infantry waited, the Union cavalry continued westward and encountered Confederate cavalry and engaged it. The Rebels had sought this engagement as a way of delaying Union troops long enough to allow Lee's army to become well entrenched at its new position south of Totopotomoy Creek.⁵²

On the 30th and 31st, Grant observed the Rebel Army's new position and once again found it too strong to attack. On the night of May 31, the Union Army made its predictable move to Lee's right. Again, Lee anticipated the move and countered it. This move put Lee's right on the Chickahomony River and only a few miles from Richmond. When Union cavalry took control of Cold Harbor, an intersection of five roads, the next major battle of the campaign was imminent.⁵³

Some fighting took place on June 1 as both sides settled into their new positions and entrenched themselves. However, Grant ordered the first all out assault for the morning of June 2. Confederate forces, he believed, were thinly spread and therefore their lines would not be difficult to break with the full force of the Army of the Potomac. Grant's assumptions on the

morning of June 1 were correct, however, the attack never occurred. Some Union soldiers were late arriving at Cold Harbor and complained of exhaustion and inadequate ammunitions. A disgruntled Grant postponed the attack for twenty-four hours.⁵⁴

Those extra hours allowed Lee to enhanced his position greatly. Engineers improved the trenches and more than 10,000 new men arrived on the Rebel side. These soldiers, far less battle weary than Lee's rapidly decreasing original army, were placed in the most threatened center part of the Confederate defenses near Cold Harbor.⁵⁵

Despite Southern reinforcements, Grant decided to proceed with the attack in the early morning hours of June 3. Knowing that another flanking movement would only drive Lee closer to Richmond and its superior fortifications, Grant and his army knew the battle that lay ahead would be fierce.⁵⁶

In an attack which Grant later admitted regretting more than any other he ever ordered, the Union men were soundly repulsed. In a frontal assault, the Army of the Potomac lost 7,000 men. Most of them died in the first fatal minutes of the hail of Rebel fire. In contrast, the Army of Northern Virginia lost only 1,500 soldiers that day. In defeat, Grant called off the attacks. These armies, however, would spend more than another week staring across their works at one another before one made another move.⁵⁷

Roszell was at Cold Harbor as well. Here he wrote of a phenomenon not mentioned before in this campaign: sharpshooters. On June 4, while at "Camp in the woods behind works about 1000 yds from rebs main fortification" he wrote:

we came here the second out regt. and three co. of sharpshooters drove the rebs skirmishers clear over their breast works and held them till dark fell back and made coffee at twelve o'clock then came back in front of our pickets and throwd up a line of works where we are now have been shelled ever day but to not much extent we fear the sharpshooters more than shells they are picking off our men all the time they have been three men killed out our regt. & several wounded other regt. on our left are more exposed then we are in the woods our left is in open field the rebels skirmishers is with four 100 yds of our works ours cant be advanced fifty yds from our lines our works you can judge wheather we have to lay low or not . . . there has been hard fighting both on our right and left for the three last days heavy skirmishing in our front all the time we are still getting nearer Richmond we are now about 7 or 8 miles from that doomed City but how many lives lost & much blood is to be shed there is no telling. . . . 58

Sharpshooters do not appear to have been a bigger problem at Cold Harbor than any previous place in the campaign. As Roszell said, both sides had sharpshooters. On the Union side, there were two regiments of sharpshooters organized. The second regiment experienced heavy losses during the Wilderness Campaign.⁵⁹ Roszell's concerns about the enemy sharpshooters may have been based on their success against their counterparts on the Union side as well as regular infantry men earlier in the campaign.

This next move in this already month old campaign was made by Grant. Escaping under the cover of darkness on June 12, the Army of the Potomac evacuated its lines at Cold Harbor. Amazingly, Lee was not aware of the movement. The Confederate Army had backed itself nearly to Richmond which Lee assumed to be Grant's objective. Therefore, when the discovery was made that the Yankees were gone, the Rebels shifted to the south the protection against what they believed would be only a short flanking

movement. That, however, was not Grant's plan.⁶⁰

Grant had decided that the best way to weaken the Confederate defenses at Richmond would be to cut off supplies being sent to that city. The best way to accomplish that end would be to capture the city of Petersburg south of Richmond. A railroad leading from Petersburg to Richmond was a major source of supplies to the Confederate capital. Cutting that supply line would contribute greatly to the fall of the city.⁶¹

Believing that Grant was still trying to get to Richmond from a more southerly angle, Lee shifted his defenses south to prevent such an attack. There he soon encountered Warren's Fifth Corps and Wilson's cavalry. As the entire Army of the Potomac had marched south, Warren and Wilson had made a sharp move to the right toward Richmond. This move, however, was simply a feint to disguise the movement of the rest of the Federals toward Petersburg.⁶²

While Warren and Wilson were busy occupying Lee's attention, Grant was leading the rest of the Army of the Potomac on a well-planned movement Southward. There was, however, one major geographic obstacle between the Northern Army and Petersburg. That obstacle was the James River. In most places, the James was nearly one half mile wide. Foreseeing that his army would eventually have to cross the river, Grant had made preparations. Engineers had scouted the river and located an area where the James narrowed to one third of a mile in width. It was at this place, Wyandoke Point, that the Army of the Potomac would cross.⁶³

Even at a third of a mile, such a crossing would be no easy task. It would require the construction of the longest pontoon bridge ever built.

Beginning around noon on June 14, the 2,200 foot long bridge was constructed in less than 12 hours. Soon the entire Army of the Potomac was pouring across it. All of the Yankees including Wilson and Warren's men were safely on the south side of the James before Lee was finally convinced by his aides that the Northern Army's next objective was not Richmond, but a target further south.⁶⁴

Because Lee still believed that Grant was going to attack Richmond, Lee had kept his forces north of the James. This left the city of Petersburg very lightly defended. The Federals knew this and looked forward to an easy victory and capture of the city. However, due to the ineptness of the subordinates whom Grant put in charge of the operation, the taking of Petersburg was much more difficult than it should have been.

Grant ordered Benjamin Butler to send William Smith's corps to take Petersburg that night without delay. Before sunrise on June 15, Smith had arrived at the outermost defenses of Petersburg, but there he stopped to evaluate the impressive looking, but thinly manned works. Still pessimistic about the strength of the city's defenses, Smith ordered a black division to attack. If these men whom he believed to be inferior soldiers could break the Confederate lines, he knew his men could do as well. If they were slaughtered by the Confederates, he believed, the loss of a black division would be less costly than the loss of a white division. When these men encountered success, Smith was convinced of Petersburg's light defenses and by nightfall his men held nearly two miles of fortifications.⁶⁵

Smith learned his worst fears were about to be realized when Rebel prisoners informed the Northern Army that reinforcements were on the way to Petersburg. Even though he had now been joined by Hancock's

Second Corps, he was cautious to do anything.⁶⁶

In the meantime, General P. G. T. Beauregard had taken control of Confederate troops at Petersburg and soon Northern fears had come true. By the time Grant arrived on the June 16 personally to overlook the situation, the city had been reinforced. Well over 10,000 men now held the eastern defenses of Petersburg. None the less, Grant ordered Hancock's Corps, along with some of Smith's and Burnside's men, to attack. That evening the attack occurred. The Yankees took part of the old and new lines of defense before the attack was halted due to darkness.⁶⁷

On June 17, no major attack was undertaken by the North. The Confederates regrouped and held one thin line of defense. Finally convinced of the threat to Petersburg and therefore to his army at Richmond, Lee sent some of his men to Petersburg after Beauregard made repeated pleas to him for help. Soon there were 40,000 Confederates defending the city against 65,000 Federals. The familiar scenario had been played out too many times in the preceding five weeks.⁶⁸

Irritated that an easy operation had taken so long, Grant took charge of the Petersburg front with renewed determination. He ordered an assault to be made on June 18. The first of the attacks was unsuccessful. Another attack that afternoon was greeted with an equal lack of success. The Army of the Potomac had lost too many opportunities to take Petersburg by assault. Now the Federals would simply have to wait out a siege.⁶⁹

William Thomas Roszell was not be one of those men waiting out that siege, however. Grant's decision to make a final attempt to take the city by assault would change Roszell's part in the war greatly. It was during one of

the assaults on June 18 that he was shot through the leg by a minnie ball. Roszell had been wounded once before shortly after entering the army, but that injury had been very minor -- a nick on the arm. This was a major wound.

On June 22, Roszell wrote home:

I am now on borde the floating hospital that is called the new world. I presume you have heard before this that I am woundel was on the 18inst shot through the calf of the right leg in the charge that was made on the enimies brest works in which our loss was severe. I thank God that it is as well with [me] as it is.⁷⁰

On the Petersburg front, floating hospitals were an easy way to ship wounded to hospitals. Where the floating hospitals was that Roszell was on is uncertain. From Petersburg, hospital could float on the Appomattox River to City Point or from City Point up the Chesapeake Bay to Washington, D. C. to deliver wounded.

If going into the army had allowed Roszell to see places and meet people he never would have had the opportunity to see or meet before, then being wounded allowed him to see another aspect of the war. He also had the opportunity to go places he had never been before, like a hospital:

I never was in a hospital before and when I look around at those that are kept life and those that are mortaly wounded. I can heardly keep from crying it that would do any good when I was shot I told Christ of my wound and believe he will make me whole. I would have written before this but I lost everything I had and this is the first oppertunity I come on bord last night. I must close very abruptly for the San. Com. men are gathering the mail I will write often I dont want you to be uneasy about me for I am well and hear by could go any where with cruches.⁷¹

The "San. Com." of which Roszell wrote was the United States Sanitary Commission. Organized in April of 1861, its purpose was to give services to soldiers that the government did not provide. The Commission attempted to raise hygiene standards in camps, care for the wounded, compile lists of sick and wounded, send more nutritious food to soldiers and provide shelter for traveling soldiers.⁷²

Communication from Roszell to his family ceased for nearly two and one half months after this letter. With his next letter, however, Roszell announced what must have been joyous news to his family. He was coming home. His initial three year enlistment with the Seventh Indiana had come to an end. Though Roszell had only been with the regiment for two years, he, too, would be furloughed at the same time as all of the others who had reenlisted. Those who had not reenlisted were discharged. From Columbian Hospital in the nation's capital on September 9, 1864, Roszell wrote:

With the greatest pleasure I'm please my seat to inform you that I will be at home next wednesday if nothing happends. My furchlow is here at the office I will start from washington at 7 oclock on monday evening I was at the city yesterday and seen the state agent he was looking for the regt to day. but I got a letter from sam Abbott the other day he said that they would be here about the 11th if they get there to morrow they will be apt to stay over Sunday. I want to go down to the city again tomorrow if I can get a pass and get my back pay and see if the regt is there. if they are I will come home with them.⁷³

Roszell did go home. He spent more than two months there, but eventually he had to return to the army due to his reenlistment.

While he had been away from the army, many events had taken place

on the military fronts. The Army of the Potomac still sat before Petersburg. Though attempts had been made to break the Rebel lines, Grant had only succeeded in forcing Lee to stretch his thin defenses even further. Grant had sent General Philip Sheridan into the Shenandoah Valley to pursue and destroy General Jubal Early's army which had encroached too close to Washington, D.C., for the comfort of the Union citizens. Through General William Tecumseh Sherman's campaign, Atlanta had finally fallen into Union hands in early September. On the western frontier, the waters of Mobile Bay had fallen to Union control by late August.⁷⁴

Roszell did not, however, return to the lines of combat, but once again to Columbian Hospital in Washington, D.C. From "Ward 6 Tent 1" of that hospital on November 12, 1864, he wrote of his return trip. He was on the road returning to Washington, he wrote, for two nights and one and one half days.⁷⁵

Though the severity of Roszell's wound is not exactly known, it is obvious that it took many months for it to heal properly. For that reason, Roszell's experiences were limited to behind the lines service for the duration of the war, except for a brief return to camp in February of 1865. He returned to military service as a member of the Twentieth Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He would never see any military action with this new regiment, however. The new regiment consisted of many of his friends from the Seventh Indiana who had reenlisted after their old regiment had been discharged. Before leaving the hospital to join his new regiment, Roszell wrote home from "Camp Distribution Near Alexandria V.a. Feb 20th 65" about the journey that was ahead of him and why he chose to take it:

I am going to join my regit. I will likely start to morrow to day the retained men was examined again and about half of them marked for the front. some of them are worse off then I and some that was put into the V.R.C. that was not near as bad off so you can see how it is. but I am very well satisfied you may depend that I will now play for my Discharge. I dont want you to be any ways uneasy about me. I think I can take care of myself. unless it be on a march then I will have to be hauld for to walk I cant and wont try. . . but I am inclined to think that it will be the best thing I can do to go to the regt. for it is very likely that I will get my discharge with out much trouble. and again I may not. but there will be know harm in trying. I have done my fighting and received my wounds. I think quite suficient⁷⁶

The V.R.C. to which Roszell referred was the Veteran Reserve Corps. This was the same organization which had been established in April of 1863 and then called the Invalid Corps. Its members were men who had been wounded and were no longer fit for combat service but could serve guard duty or in other behind the lines jobs such as cooks and nurses. By December of 1863, the corps counted 20,000 among its ranks. In March of 1864, the name of the corps was changed because its original initials corresponded with "Inspected--Condemmed," the designation given to no longer useful government equipment and animals.⁷⁷

En route to his new regiment, while "Crossing the Chespeak Bay" on February 22, 1865, Roszell observed:

we are now glideing swiftly over the deep watters of the Chesspeak Bay. the boys are enjoying thimselves finely. some are palying at cards others reading some eating. some sleeping. agood many up on deck but it is so cold up there that one cant stay long at atime. some are like myself trying to write to their friends at home⁷⁸

All indications are that the men were being transported to camp in Virginia. The easiest way to do this and avoid making the disabled march was to send them via the water. From hospitals in Washington, D.C., it was a simple matter of shipping them down the Potomac River to the Chesapeake Bay, then south to Fort Monroe and up the James River inlet to City Point, Virginia, where they could be dispatched to their regiments on the Petersburg front.

Roszell's time with the Twentieth Indiana was very brief. On February 25, 1865, he wrote:

I arrived here [the camp of the 20th Indiana] last evening. . . I find all the boys well and hearty and looking pretty rusty. they have been in quarters four times this winter and this time they didnt take make paines to make it nice although it is comfortable got a good fire place and plenty of fine wood handy and a good bunk to sleep in and if we dont keep warm it will be our own fault. I think I shall like our Company officers pretty well our Capt. used to belong to the 14th Ind. and our Leiuet. was members of the old 7th and good fellows too.⁷⁹

Life in the camp of the Twentieth Indiana seemed a little better than Roszell had seen in the Seventh or in the hospital. On February 25, he also wrote about the variety of food available to him:

We have pretty good grub such as it is. quite aviriety have a change every meal. for supper we had coffee fried flitch [pork cured and smoked as bacon] and heard tack. we had a gay breakfast for I cooked it myself. fried crackers flitch and coffee. for dinner the leavens from supper and breakfast. would of had beans but couldnt get a kittle to cook them in so we will have them for dinner to morrow. I think I shall enjoy myself better here then I did at the hospital. any how while we stay in camp. I must say I like camp life very much⁸⁰

Even though he enjoyed life with the Twentieth Indiana, he could not stay there. His injury prevented him from being an effective soldier. On March 18, 1865, he wrote home, again from City Point Hospital in Virginia:

I joined the regt. but you will see by the heading of this letter that I left it again. they are anticipating on haveing a fight pretty soon. but there is no telling how soon. and knowing that its dangers to be safe in time of actions I thought it proper to leap to the rear the Dr had orders to send all his men that wasent able to march to division hospital. and he sent seven and there we was examined and four out of seven was sent back to the regt. I and Sergt. Willard from my company and bunk and a nother fellow from Co. E came to this place yesterday evening there is some five or six boys here from the old 7th of my aquaintence. so I anpisipate on haveing a pretty good time while I stay here. . . .⁸¹

By April 8, Roszell was still in the hospital, but it was a different hospital. From "Lamicon General Hospital Washington D.C.," he wrote:

they [the regiment] started from Burksville the 2nd to day a week ago for manchester as I stated in my last letter. but I thinking it would be a heard march I would prefer transpertation and went to the Dr. and had him to examen by leg. and was Sent to Div. Hospt. and there we staid sunday night two pour fellows died that night monday we were taken in ambulances to Burks Station & put on board the cars, but didnt leave there till 7 P.M. our corps commenced passing at noon and wagons were still passing at night. I went to sleep on the cars and waked up at City Point at daylight tuesday morning and bumed around there till saturday and went a board the Connecticut bound for washington where we arived at noon yesterday. there was 909 convelessens on board at the dock we were put in ambulances and taken to different hospitals. here it is supposed we will be discharged as soon as posable that is what I want but I think after the corps arives at washington there will be a nother order to send all that are not under medical treatment to join their command and all organized regt. or batalions sent to their own states to be disbanded. after the grand review by the president. . .⁸²

Only one day after Roszell wrote this letter, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. The tide of the conflict had been turning toward the Union for several months.

After the fall of Atlanta, Sherman had turned northward, marching his men through the Carolinas. Wilson's corps had marched through Alabama with little resistance. Fort Fisher at Wilmington had fallen, which severely limited food supplies coming into the Confederate lines at Petersburg. Desertion from the Rebel armies was at an all time high.

Finally in early April, Lee had evacuated the Richmond and Petersburg fronts, but as he marched westward he had little hope of escape or victory against the Union Army even if he could join his army with that of Johnston's in the Carolinas. Grant was in direct pursuit and Sherman was approaching from the south. Finally, on April 9, faced once again by enthusiastic Union infantry, Lee realized the futility of the Confederate effort. He surrendered.

The review to which Roszell referred took place, but not under the observation of President Lincoln because only six days later on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was fatally shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre. On May 23 and 24, President Johnson and his cabinet presided over the grand review of approximately 150,000 men from the Armies of the Potomac and the Tennessee. The men had traveled over many of the battlefields of the previous years to get to Washington. They marched along Pennsylvania Avenue to the cheers of the citizens who lined the street. It was after this review that, as Roszell stated, the volunteer army was disbanded.⁸³ This meant that the soldiers were coming home. Some went directly home. Others, like Roszell, took a more scenic route.

By the end of May, Roszell was still not at home in Greensburg,

Indiana. He had once again changed locations. A letter dated May 29, found him at "Headquarters Chester U.S.A. Gen. Hospital Pennsylvania":

I have again changed quarters. . . I have been acting in the capacity of clerk. I have been working very hard making out muster out rolls. My Discharge papers are all made out and will go to Philadelphia to get signed I expected to get them about wednesday. I will send a hundred & maby a \$1.10 home by express and my knapsack . . . I am going to bum on when I will come home I dont know. . . . I shall go to New York any how. and maby to Boston. . . . 84

Still in Chester, Pennsylvania, on June 5, Roszell sent home important news:

I am happy inform you that I am once more a citizen of this U.S.A. and a free man I got my discharge on friday the 2nd and went to Phila and drew my pay. \$250.00 and of that I laid out \$100 for clothing. when I wrote you stateing that I would send \$100 home I didnt expect to get as mouch clothing but I think I got a good bargan. . . you know that it costs a great deal to travel so I think it best to keep all I ve got. I am going to start to N.Y. I dont know where all I will go to or how long I will be from home but I hope not long. I have a great anxiety to visit some of the great Eastern states and if this oportunity passes I will never hav another one as good. . . . 85

After spending nearly three years away from home, it may seem strange that Roszell did not go directly home. During the war, with the possibility of dying almost every day, it is obvious that the foremost thought in any soldier's mind would be to go home to safety. After the war was over for the most part, however, and Roszell felt safe again, perhaps going home wasn't that important after all. As he stated, never again would he probably have the opportunity or the money to travel the east coast.

Home would be there for a long time, but a chance like this almost certainly would never come again. Roszell wrote home again on June 27, 1865. While in the hospital, he had received letters from a women in South Dear Isle, Maine. From that city, he wrote his last letter home.

I hope you will not think heard of me for not coming home as soon as I was discharged. if I had I would never been satisfide till I made this visit. I am haveing such a gay time I will spent the forth in Rockland Maine then start for home by the way of Niggria falls⁸⁶

Eventually, Roszell did return home to Greensburg, Indiana. Seven years later, on September 26, 1872, he married Hannah Catherine Hiatt and subsequently moved to her hometown of Winchester in Randolph County, Indiana. They had two daughters. Roszell spent the rest of his life as a farmer. On at least one occasion he attended a reunion of the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This particular reunion was held on September 15, 1914 in Fairland, Indiana. On August 21, 1923, William Thomas Roszell died in Winchester at the home of his daughter, Orpha.⁸⁷

Notes

¹I.C. Curtis, "Another Pioneer Gone" *The Greensburg Standard* May 14, 1868, p. 2.

²John L. Smith and Lee L. Driver, *The Past and Present of Randolph County Indiana* (Indianapolis: A. W. Bowen and Co., 1914), p. 1188.

³Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union* (New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1952), p. 299.

⁴Smith and Driver, *Randolph County*, p. 1189.

⁵The William Thomas Roszell Civil War Letters Collection. Photocopies were used to write this paper. The original letters are property of Zane Stohler, Winchester, Indiana. Hereafter referred to as the Roszell Collection. WTR to John F. Roszell, August 19, 1862, Roszell Collection.

⁶WTR to John F. Roszell, September 3, 1862, Roszell Collection.

⁷Wiley, *Billy Yank*, p. 29.

⁸Frederick H. Dyer. *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, 3. Vols. (New York: Thomas Yosdloff, 1959), II, 1120.

⁹WTR to Laura Roszell, January 26, 1863, Roszell Collection.

¹⁰Shelby Foote, *The Civil War, A Narrative: Frederickburg to Meridian* (New York: Random House, 1963), p. 129.

¹¹Dyer, *Compendium*, p. 1120.

¹²WTR to John F. Roszell, July 8, 1863, Roszell Collection.

¹³Smith and Driver, *Randolph County*, p. 1190.

¹⁴WTR to Bye Roszell, October 8, 1862, Roszell Collection.

¹⁵WTR to John F. Roszell, August 18, 1863, Roszell Collection.

¹⁶Wiley, *Billy Yank*, p. 202.

- ¹⁷WTR to Bye Roszell, November 1, 1863, Roszell Collection.
- ¹⁸WTR to John F. Roszell, December 24, 1863, Roszell Collection.
- ¹⁹James M. McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire: Ther Civil War and Reconstruction* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982), p. 410.
- ²⁰WTR to John F. Roszell, January 1, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ²¹*Ibid.*
- ²²Wiley, *Billy Yank*, p. 326.
- ²³WTR to Mollie Gaunt, February 13, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ²⁴*Ibid.*
- ²⁵WTR to Bye Roszell, April 11, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ²⁶Wiley, *Billy Yank*, p. 110.
- ²⁷WTR to Bye Roszell, April 23, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ²⁸Wiley, *Billy Yank*, p. 170.
- ²⁹McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 410.
- ³⁰WTR to Laura Roszell, April 2, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ³¹Gergory Jaynes et al., *The Killing Ground: Wilderness to Cold Harbor* (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, 1986), p. 24.
- ³²Bruce Catton, *Grant Takes Command* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1966), p. 143.
- ³³Ernest R. Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy, *The Compact History of the Civil War* (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1966), p. 288.
- ³⁴McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 413.
- ³⁵WTR to John F. Roszell, May 15, 1864, Roszell Collection.
- ³⁶McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 416.

³⁷*Ibid.*

³⁸WTR to John F. Roszell, May 12, 1864, Roszell Collection.

³⁹Lewis A. Harding, ed., *A History of Decatur County Indiana: its people, industry and institutions* (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1915), p. 432.

⁴⁰McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 416.

⁴¹Bruce Catton. *This Hallowed Ground: The Story of the Union Side of the Civil War*. (New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1956), p. 212.

⁴²WTR to John Roszell, May 15, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁴³Jaynes *et al.*, *The Killing Ground*, p. 89.

⁴⁴McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 419.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*

⁴⁶*Ibid.*

⁴⁷WTR to John F. Roszell, May 15, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁴⁸Jaynes, *The Killing Ground*, p. 105.

⁴⁹WTR to John F. Roszell, May 15, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁵⁰*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891) Ser. I, Vol. XXXVI, Pt. II, p. 627

⁵¹Dupuy and Dupuy, *Civil War*, p. 301.

⁵²*Ibid.*, p. 302.

⁵³*Ibid.*

⁵⁴McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire*, p. 420.

⁵⁵Dupuy and Dupuy, *Civil War*, p. 302.

⁵⁶McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 424.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*, p. 422.

⁵⁸WTR to Hala Roszell, June 4, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁵⁹Mark M. Boatner III, *The Civil War Dictionary* (New York: David McKay and Company, Inc., 1959), p. 736.

⁶⁰William C. Davis *et al.*, *Death in the Trenches: Grant at Petersburg* (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, 1986), p. 36.

⁶¹McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 424.

⁶²Davis, *Death in the Trenches*, p. 36.

⁶³Dupuy and Dupuy, *Civil War*, p. 312.

⁶⁴McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 424.

⁶⁵Dupuy and Dupuy, *Civil War*, p. 314.

⁶⁶McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 425.

⁶⁷Davis, *Death in the Trenches*, p. 44.

⁶⁸Dupuy and Dupuy, *Civil War*, p. 316.

⁶⁹McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire*, p. 426.

⁷⁰WTR to John F. Roszell, June 22, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁷¹*Ibid.*

⁷²Boatner, *Dictionary*, p. 720.

⁷³WTR to John F. Roszell, September 9, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁷⁴Catton, *Hallowed Ground*, p. 351.

⁷⁵WTR to John F. Roszell, November 12, 1864, Roszell Collection.

⁷⁶WTR to John F. Roszell, February 20, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁷⁷Boatner, *Dictionary*, p. 870.

⁷⁸WTR to John F. Roszell, February 22, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁷⁹WTR to John F. Roszell, February 25, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸⁰WTR to Emma Roszell, February 25, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸¹WTR to John F. Roszell, March 18, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸²WTR to John F. Roszell, April 8, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸³Catton, *Hallowed Ground*, p. 399.

⁸⁴WTR to John F. Roszell, May 29, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸⁵WTR to John F. Roszell, June 5, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸⁶WTR to John F. Roszell, June 27, 1865, Roszell Collection.

⁸⁷Historical and Genealogical Society of Randolph County Indiana, *Randolph County Indiana 1818-1990* (Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing, 1990), p. 455.

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